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Global Water Resources & Publications

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Global Water Resources & Publications

Taryn L. Rucinski

Before we as a society can begin crafting innovative legal solutions to help combat the global water crisis, researchers and experts in the field first need access to sound sources of scientific information. Despite the seeming simplicity of that goal, locating research about water, sanitation, and agricultural conditions, especially in developing countries, can be immensely challenging as it is complicated by issues of language, currency, scope, and accuracy. The purpose of this note is to provide practitioners with a list of free, high-quality resources that should help make their research in this area a bit more accessible.

As a general rule, researchers should look to the publications of international organizations that focus on issues pertaining to water as most of these agencies have websites that are easy to navigate and contain lists and/or searchable databases of publications.

The benefits of these types of publications are many. First, reports are authored by groups of highly reputable scientists; some are even subject to various levels of peer review. Second, virtually all reports and briefs of this type have English translations. Third, they frequently focus on marginal or developing regions and countries. And last, some publications have been produced over a period of several years providing access to historical information or comparative information over time.

The following is a list of some of the best resources in this area. The accompanying links will provide direct access to information relevant to researching the global water crisis.

INTERNATIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE,
<http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/>

- *Publications*, IWMI,
<http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/publications/> (last visited Apr. 21, 2014).
Briefs, articles, working papers and reports produced by a non-profit research organization “focusing on the sustainable use of water and land resources in developing countries.” A Library Catalog and Advanced Search beyond IWMI authored works is also available listing both full-text open access documents and abstracts on select water related publications dating back to 1899.

UNITED NATIONS, <http://www.un.org/>

- **FAO WATER**, <http://www.fao.org/water/> (Food & Agriculture Organization of the U.N.)
 - *State of the World's Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture*, FAO, <http://www.fao.org/nr/solaw/en/> (last visited Apr. 21, 2014). New report in its first edition focusing on the intersection of agricultural production systems and water infrastructure.

- *AQUASTAT*, FAO, <http://www.fao.org/nr/water/aquastat/main/index.stm> (last visited Apr. 21, 2014). Developed by the FAO's Land & Water Division, AQUASTAT "collect[s], analyze[s] and disseminate[s] information on water resources, water uses, and agricultural water management, with an emphasis on countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean." *Id.* With select information going back to 1958 this site also features country profiles, irrigation, dams, wastewater, climate, and data tools.
- *Corporate Document Repository*, FAO, <http://www.fao.org/documents/en/docrep.jsp> (last visited Apr. 21, 2014). FAO's combined document repository for all its programs, including historical materials (where available) dating back to 1948. Subject categories are provided, however, none are relevant for water. As a result, researchers should employ the Advanced Search feature by clicking "More Search Options" and filtering by text (keyword), title, series, journal, meeting, document type, language, country, year, or document number.
- *Information Resources*, FAO WATER <http://www.fao.org/nr/water/jsp/publications/search.htm> (last visited Apr. 21, 2014). Searchable database of FAO Water division publications. All listed titles will appear by clicking the Search button otherwise researchers can filter by type, keyword, series and language.
- U.N. WATER, <http://www.unwater.org/>
 - *World Water Development Report*, U.N. WATER, <http://www.unwater.org/publications/world-water-development-report/en/> (last visited Apr. 21, 2014). Published in 2003, 2006, 2009, 2012 and 2014 by the World Water Assessment Programme, this thematic report provides facts and figures and discusses major trends including energy, sanitation and scarcity from around the world.
 - *Key Water Indicator Portal*, U.N. WATER, <http://www.unwater.org/kwip> (last visited Apr. 21, 2014). Interactive web portal where you can filter by individual country, water indicator (capacity, withdrawals, and access), and/or by layer (geographic feature). Updated on a rolling basis, information is derived from the U.N. Water Federated Water Monitoring System (FWMS), the Key Water Indicator Portal (KWIP) Project, and from all U.N. agencies conducting water-related work.
 - *Publications*, U.N. WATER, <http://www.unwater.org/statistics/en/> (last visited Apr. 21, 2014). Full text access to briefs, reports, and factsheets produced by U.N. Water. Searching is available by keyword, topic and year with materials going back to 2003.

WORLD BANK, <http://www.worldbank.org/>

- *Water*, WORLD BANK, <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/water>
 - *Water Research*, WORLD BANK, <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/water/research/all> (last visited Apr. 21, 2014). Hundreds of memoranda, reports, newsletters, and briefs (most full-text) dating back to 1948 for all manner of issues pertaining to water in developing countries. Particularly valuable for its reports on Africa and the Middle East. Post-filtering options available for country, region, theme, document type, and date.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION, <http://www.who.int/en/>

- *Water Sanitation Health*, WHO, http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/en/
 - *Publications*, WHO, http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/publications/en/ (last visited Apr. 21, 2014). Alphabetical and chronological list of relevant full-text publications dating back to 2001 (scroll down to links).

WORLD WATER COUNCIL, <http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/>

- *Library*, WORLD WATER COUNCIL, <http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/library/> (last visited Apr. 21, 2014). International, multi-stakeholder platform whose mission is to "promote awareness, build political commitment and trigger action on critical water issues at all levels."¹ Full-text versions of official documents, thematic publications, and forum documents are available from 2001. Access to the *Water Policy Journal* is by subscription only (abstracts provided).

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¹ *Vision, Mission, Strategy*, WORLD WATER COUNCIL, <http://www.worldwatercouncil.org/about-us/vision-mission-strategy/> (last visited Apr. 21, 2014).